

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



3527

Issued August 9, 1915.

Form BI—129.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,

HENRY W. HENSHAW, Chief of Bureau.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

---

DIRECTIONS FOR POISONING PRAIRIE DOGS.

Mix 1 ounce of powdered strychnine in three-fourths of a pint of water and heat to boiling point. Mix a tablespoonful of gloss starch in one-eighth of a pint of cold water, add to the strychnine solution, and boil until a clear paste is formed. Remove from fire; add 1 ounce of powdered bicarbonate of soda, previously mixed with one-eighth of a pint of cold water, and stir to a smooth, creamy mass. Add 1 tablespoonful of heavy corn sirup and one-eighth of an ounce of saccharine, and stir. Pour over 13 quarts of oats and mix thoroughly until the grain is evenly coated. Allow to stand several hours before distributing.

For mixing small quantities an ordinary galvanized-iron washtub is convenient. For larger quantities a tight, smooth box may be used, and the mixing may be done with a spade.

Each quart of the prepared grain is sufficient for treating about 40 holes. This quantity should be scattered lightly on clean, hard ground near each prairie-dog hole. Do not place the poison on loose earth or in the hole. With reasonable care in scattering the baits cattle and sheep on the open range will not be endangered.

The poison is effective at any season when the dogs are active. The most favorable time for poisoning is early in spring or during periods of drought, when green food is scarce.

3253—15



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

## DIRECTIONS FOR POISONING PRAIRIE-DOGS.

Dry gloss starch . . . . .	1 heaping tablespoonful.
Strychnine (alkaloid), powdered.	1 ounce.
Baking soda. . . . .	1 ounce.
Corn sirup . . . . .	1/4 pint.
Glycerine. . . . .	1 tablespoonful.
Saccharine . . . . .	1/10 ounce.
Clean oats . . . . .	13 quarts.

Dissolve the dry gloss starch in a little cold water and add to  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of hot water. Boil, stirring constantly until a thin clear paste is formed. Mix together the powdered strychnine (alkaloid) and baking soda, sift into the hot starch paste, and stir thoroughly to a smooth creamy mass. Add the corn sirup, glycerine, and saccharine and stir thoroughly. Pour this mixture over the oats and mix thoroughly so that each grain is evenly coated. (It is important that only the best grade of thoroughly clean oats be used, as chaff absorbs and wastes much valuable strychnine, and poisoned weed-seeds imperil useful bird life.)

Each quart of the prepared grain is sufficient to treat about 40 holes. This quantity should be sparingly scattered on clean hard ground near each prairie-dog hole. Do not place the poison on loose or dusty ground or in the holes. With reasonable care in scattering the bait, live stock on the open range will not be endangered. The poison is effective at any time that prairie-dogs are active.

Strychnine in any form other than powdered strychnine (alkaloid) is not effective in the above formula. A bait almost as efficient may be prepared by using strychnine sulphate as follows:

Dissolve 1 ounce of strychnine sulphate in 1½ pints of boiling water. After the strychnine has dissolved, make the starch paste as directed above, using this hot, poisoned water for the purpose. Then stir in 1 ounce of baking soda, add sirup, glycerine, and saccharine and proceed as in the above directions.

**GAUTTON.**

All utensils used in the preparation of poisons and all poison containers should be kept PLAINLY LABELED and OUT OF REACH of children, irresponsible persons, and live stock.

し